

University of Toronto Faculty of Music

Opera Division

*Opera  
Scenes*

Friday, April 29, 1994  
8 pm

MacMillan Theatre



## PROGRAMME

### **The Magic Flute**

*Scene from Act II*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756 - 1791)

Papageno  
Papagena  
Spirits

Christopher Ryan  
Marian Sjolander  
Jennifer Robinson  
Stina Hallberg  
Janice Paterson

Musical Director  
Stage Director  
Pianist  
Celesta

Sabatino Vacca  
James Robinson  
Robin Wheeler  
Rachel Andrist

In the confusion of preceeding events, the birdcatcher, Papageno, has become separated from his beloved Papagena. He believes that she is lost to him and, in despair, decides to take his life. Three benevolent spirits interrupt his half-hearted suicide attempt and unite him with his future wife.

### **La Cenerentola**

*Scene from Act I*

Gioachino Rossini

(1792 - 1868)

Clorinda  
Tisbe  
Cenerentola  
Ramiro  
Dandini  
Alidoro  
Don Magnifico

Linda Karry  
Vilma Indra Vitols  
Diana Kim  
Stephen McClare  
Marc Sottile  
James Westman  
Oleh Chabursky

Musical Director  
Stage Director  
Pianist

Stephen Ralls  
Michael Patrick Albano  
Robin Wheeler

Dandini, Prince Ramiro's valet, is impersonating his master (and vice versa). They have invited the decrepit old nobleman, Don Magnifico and his two daughters, Clorinda and Tisbe

(the ugly sisters), to a ball at the palace, where the prince will select a wife. The kitchenmaid, Cenerentola (Cinderella), has fallen in love with Ramiro, whom she believes to be the valet; her request to be allowed to go to the ball also is brutally refused by Magnifico. Alidoro, the prince's guardian, suddenly arrives. He has evidence that Magnifico has a third daughter. "Yes, but she died", he counters. Cenerentola (who is the third daughter) tries to refute this; all the characters express their various emotions in one of Rossini's most brilliant ensembles.

## Manon

*Scene from Act I*

Jules Massenet

(1842 - 1912)

Manon	Siphiwe McKenzie
Des Grieux	Dan Chamandy
Lescaut	Curtis Sullivan
Pousette	Jennifer Chamandy
Javotte	Cindy Townsend
Rosette	Kathleen Flynn
Guards	John McGillis
	Gary Brown
Postboy	Eugene Burke
Musical Director	Michael Evans
Stage Director	Nancy Hermiston
Pianist	Sabatino Vacca

Manon Lescaut, at the wishes of her family, is on her way to a convent. As she waits for a change of coach at Amiens, she is met by her rascally cousin, Lescaut. Although not oblivious to the girl's charm and beauty, he is drawn to the company of some drinking and gambling friends, leaving her to fend for herself. A young student, the Chevalier des Grieux, arrives on the scene preparing to board the Paris-bound coach. Captivated by Manon, he suggests that they elope together to Paris. Manon is aware that this is a foolhardy and dangerous situation, but her youthful desire for adventure gets the better of her.

INTERMISSION

# Rusalka

*Scene from Act I*

Antonin Dvorák

(1841 - 1904)

Rusalka	Cheryl Hickman
Witch	Jacqui Lynn Fidlar
Watergnome	Peter Wiens
Woodsprites	Jennifer Robinson
	Rosalba Lamanna
	Diana Kim
Echos	Siphiwe McKenzie
	Mari Hahn
	Stina Hallberg
Musical Director	Michael Evans
Stage Director	Nancy Hermiston
Pianist	Rachel Andrist

Rusalka is a version of the legend of Undine, the water-nymph who yearns to be a mortal. As Rusalka gazes sadly at the moon, a trio of Woodsprites tease and tempt the Watergnome from his watery home. When they vanish into the wood, Rusalka confesses to the Watergnome, her father, that she has fallen in love with a handsome Prince who comes to bathe in the lake and that she longs to become a human being and reveal her love. The Watergnome, on hearing her confession, is filled with sad forebodings -- but his warnings fall upon deaf ears. He advises Rusalka to seek the counsel of an old witch, Jezibaba, who lives nearby. Alone, Rusalka beseeches the moon to carry her message of love to the Prince. As the moon fades, she cries out for Jezibaba to help her. The witch is ready and able to do so, but demands a fearful price for her services. Rusalka must be forever silent and should her lover prove faithless she will be doomed forever to the lake and her Prince will also suffer damnation. Rusalka, convinced of the power of her love, agrees to the bargain and, as dawn breaks, she emerges from the cottage -- a lovely young maiden.

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# Lucia di Lammermoor

Act II, Scene I

Gaetano Donizetti

(1797 - 1848)

Lucia  
Enrico  
Normanno

Mari Hahn  
Michael Downie  
Robert Herriot

Musical Director  
Stage Director  
Pianist

Robin Wheeler  
Michael Patrick Albano  
Rachel Andrist

For many years Lord Henry Ashton has maintained an implacable feud against the family of Ravenswood. He has broken their power, seized their ancient castle -- and still he does not relent. So long as Edgar of Ravenswood survives, Lord Henry knows no peace. Another problem weighs heavily on the war-like lord: a hostile monarch is about to ascend the throne of Scotland. Henry is in danger of proscription unless his sister, Lucy, marries a man with influence at court. Unfortunately, Lucy has fallen deeply in love with Edgar and to Henry's fury, has betrothed herself to him. Edgar's temporary absence from Scotland gives Henry and his henchman, Norman, an opportunity to spread rumours of infidelity. On the day of the planned forced marriage to his wealthy ally, Sir Arthur Buckland, Henry shows Lucy a forged letter from Edgar and convinces the wretched girl of her fiance's unfaithfulness.



# Bluebeard

Act III, Scene 1

Jacques Offenbach

(1819 - 1880)

Boulotte  
Bluebeard  
Popolani  
Dead Wives

Kathleen Flynn  
Eugene Burke  
Gary Brown  
Debra Dent  
Linda Karry  
Mariane Sjolander  
Janice Paterson  
Stina Hallberg

Musical Director  
Stage Director  
Pianist

Stephen Ralls  
Michael Patrick Albano  
Sabatino Vacca

Offenbach's *Barbe-Bleu* (Bluebeard) was first performed at the Variétés in Paris in 1866. The same illustrious cast which had ensured the phenomenal success of *La Belle Hélène* took part. The legendary Hortense Schneider played Boulotte and Dupuis played Bluebeard. Meilhac and Halévy, librettist of *Carmen*, provided the text for this and fifteen other Offenbach works. Gilles de Resz, a monstrous child-murderer of the fifteenth century, was the inspiration for Charles Perrault's gruesome fairytale, *Bluebeard*. In the operetta, he is a light-hearted libertine. The court alchemist, Popolani, is required to despatch each wife as Bluebeard tires of her. Instead, he gives them soporifics and thus assembles a harem of his own. In Act III, scene 1, Bluebeard brings his latest wife, Boulotte, to be put to death. She confesses to a few casual peccadilloes, hoping that Bluebeard will spare her. Popolani goes through his customary chicanery and Boulotte wakens to be greeted by her five predecessors. She leads them in a cry of "Resurrect" and "Up the Dead and Down the Living!" The operetta has a singularly tidy dénouement: Bluebeard marries off his six wives to the ex-lovers of the Queen of Brittany.



Graduate Guest - Stephen McClare

Special thanks to François Speich of the Charlesview Apartments

## OPERA DIVISION

Musical Director .....	James Fraser-Craig (on leave)
Acting Musical Director .....	Michael Evans
Stage Directors .....	Michael Patrick Albano Nancy Hermiston James Robinson
Music Staff .....	Rachel Andrist Stephen Ralls Sabatino Vacca Robin Wheeler
Co-ordinators .....	Michael Patrick Albano Nancy Hermiston
Administrative Assistant .....	Tina Orton

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Design .....	Fred Perruzza
Director of Operations .....	Fred Perruzza
Stage Manager .....	*James Livingstone
Assistant Stage Manager .....	*Judie M. Brokenshire
Technical Assistant .....	Chris Brooks
Production Assistant .....	James Fulton
Costume Co-ordinator .....	Diane McCann-Davis
Wardrobe Head .....	Leisa Bellmore
Wardrobe Assistant .....	Martha Paul
Sewer .....	Les Handrahan
Wigs .....	Theatrical Wig Wonders Inc.
Makeup Supervisor .....	Dawn Rivard
Assistants .....	Anne-Marie MacLoughlin Susan Garofolo Mimi Lui
Props .....	Ann Webster
Scenic Artist .....	Richard Mongiat
Assistant .....	Torch McDonald
Crew .....	Rick Giroux, Tim Jennings Brian Kool, Stephanie Lockhart George Milenov, Paul Quesnel, Tania Sclocco

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*Events of the Opera Division  
for the 1994-95 Season*

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Saturday March 4 & 11, 1995  
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Monday, November 28, 1994  
Tuesday, March 21, 1995  
MacMillan Theatre Stage, 2 pm  
Tickets \$20

❖ *Opera Scenes* ❖

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MacMillan Theatre, 8 pm  
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